

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company
Docket Nos. D.T.E. 02-24/25
Responses to the Department's Seventh Set of Information Requests

Request No. DTE 7-22 (Gas):

Refer to Workpapers JLH-5 (Gas) at 207. Please explain the reasons why the total number of meters used in the meter section of the schedule differs from the number of customers used in the services section of the schedule. Also, provide the total numbers of "spare" and "inactive" meters, as indicated in n.2, and describe how the totals were allocated among rate classes.

Response:

The total number of meters in the meter section refers to the total number of active meters plus spare and inactive meters. Note that the total number of spare and inactive meters is 1,951. The numbers of customers reflects the active customers only. The ratio of meters to customers is always greater than 1.

For the meter counts, the calculation is as shown in workpapers supporting JLH-6 (Gas), page 18. The spare and inactive meters are allocated by total meter counts in the residential, small, medium and large C&I classes (Refer to line 30). The total meter counts (Active + Spare + Inactive) are then allocated between high and low load factor classes based on customer count for individual rate class (Refer to line 32).

It should be noted that there is a slight discrepancy in overall counts shown on the two pages. The information shown on workpapers supporting JLH-6 (Gas), page 18 are correct. When these numbers are corrected on page 207 of workpapers supporting JLH-5 (Gas) the impact on the COSS is slight. For example, the allocation factor for service investments to the Residential Heating (R3/R4 Ht) class should be 66.2% versus the 66.3% figure employed in the filed documents. These issues will be addressed in a compliance filing of the COSS.

Person Responsible: James L. Harrison